Reviewer’s report

Title: Extragonadal Germ Cell Tumor of the Posterior Mediastinum in a Child Complicated with Spinal Cord Compression: a case report

Version: 0 Date: 09 Jan 2017

Reviewer: Yinghao Su

Reviewer's report:

The authors reported a rare case of seminoma, one of malignant germ cell tumors, from posterior mediastinum of a child, who had non-specific symptoms of back pain and leg weakness. The tumor mass was timely found by proper exams (thoracic X-ray, MRI and CT scans) and the diagnosis was confirmed through biopsy and pathological examination. The patient was treated properly and successfully with a 3-years disease-free survival. Generally, the paper showed clinical significances in the enrichment of available data regarding this rare disease and establishment of best therapeutic strategy for health care providers. To my opinion, the manuscript is acceptable for publication in the journal, but a few concerns need to be addressed by authors before publication.

1. The follow-up time: In Case presentation section, authors mentioned that the patient was followed up for three years after the end of chemotherapy (last paragraph of the section), but in Conclusion section of the paper it was written as "He is followed with regular checkup with rehabilitation for two years of event-free survival...". It is confusing. Please address it.

2. The follow-up information: In Case presentation section the authors did not tell readers what kind of and how frequently the exams were done during follow-up. Since the serum beta-HCG was increased in this case, why authors did not monitoring this biomarker which may have indication of metastasis? Figure 2 (E and F) showed that MRI was done during follow-up, but when? A more detailed follow-up information is necessary.

3. Figures: Figure 3 missed E which should be c-KIT (CD117) immunohistochemical staining. CD117 is an important IHC marker for seminoma diagnosis. I would suggest authors to provide a picture with good quality. Also I could not find Figure 1C and Figure 2G, but in Case presentation the last 2nd paragraph the authors mentioned these two figures. It is confusing.
4. The serum beta-HCG level was reported as 30.84 mIU/L (in Case report section, the 3rd paragraph). It is about 0.031 IU/L, within normal range, not an elevated level. Is it a typo for "30.84 mIU/mL"? Please clarify it.

5. Writing/grammar issues: I would suggest authors to get a native English-speaking professional to proofread their paper. There are some writing issues need to be corrected. For example: (1) In Abstract, Conclusion part, "a extremely" --> "An extremely". The same mistake in Background section, on the last 4th line; "...of GCT of the posterior mediastinum in child..." might be "of GCT from the posterior mediastinum in a child"; (2) In Discussion, second page, on the last line, "histology of patient" is improper. Suggested is "histology of tumor"; (3) In the last paragraph of Discussion, "stage of tumors" should be "advanced stage of tumors"; "In this patient's case" might be "in this case of GCTs". "in children" might be deleted.

Are the methods appropriate and well described?
If not, please specify what is required in your comments to the authors.

Yes

Does the work include the necessary controls?
If not, please specify which controls are required in your comments to the authors.

Unable to assess

Are the conclusions drawn adequately supported by the data shown?
If not, please explain in your comments to the authors.

Unable to assess

Are you able to assess any statistics in the manuscript or would you recommend an additional statistical review?
If an additional statistical review is recommended, please specify what aspects require further assessment in your comments to the editors.

Not relevant to this manuscript

Quality of written English
Please indicate the quality of language in the manuscript:

Needs some language corrections before being published
Declaration of competing interests
Please complete a declaration of competing interests, considering the following questions:

1. Have you in the past five years received reimbursements, fees, funding, or salary from an organisation that may in any way gain or lose financially from the publication of this manuscript, either now or in the future?

2. Do you hold any stocks or shares in an organisation that may in any way gain or lose financially from the publication of this manuscript, either now or in the future?

3. Do you hold or are you currently applying for any patents relating to the content of the manuscript?

4. Have you received reimbursements, fees, funding, or salary from an organization that holds or has applied for patents relating to the content of the manuscript?

5. Do you have any other financial competing interests?

6. Do you have any non-financial competing interests in relation to this paper?

If you can answer no to all of the above, write 'I declare that I have no competing interests' below. If your reply is yes to any, please give details below.

I declare that I have no competing interests.

I agree to the open peer review policy of the journal. I understand that my name will be included on my report to the authors and, if the manuscript is accepted for publication, my named report including any attachments I upload will be posted on the website along with the authors' responses. I agree for my report to be made available under an Open Access Creative Commons CC-BY license (http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/). I understand that any comments which I do not wish to be included in my named report can be included as confidential comments to the editors, which will not be published.

I agree to the open peer review policy of the journal.